SMALL POX (ATHENRY).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 13 July 1875;—*for*;

COPIES "of CORRESPONDENCE between the Local Government Board and its Inspector with regard to the present Epidemic of SMALL-POX at *Athenry*;"

"And, of CORRESPONDENCE between the Local Government Board and any Poor Law Unions with regard to the same Outbreak of SMALL-POX."

Local Government Board, Dublin, 3 August 1875.

B. BANKS, Secretary.

(*Captain Nolan.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,* 13 *August* 1875.

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COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the Local Government Board and its Inspector with regard to the present Epidemic of SMALL-POX at *Athenry*; And, of CORRESPONDENCE between the Local Government Board and any Poor Law Unions with regard to the same Outbreak of SMALL-POX.

— No. 1. —

(No. 4707—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*, Local Government Inspector.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
5 March 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to return to you herewith the letter of Dr. Leonard, medical officer of the Athenry Dispensary District, relating to the case of small-pox which was conveyed from Tuam to Athenry on the 1st instant, and I am to request that you will have the goodness to make inquiry as to the parties responsible for this violation of Section 38 of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

By order of the Board,

Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway. (signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

— No. 2. —

(No. 3707—75.)

LETTER from Dr. *Leonard*, Medical Officer of the Athenry Dispensary District, enclosed in foregoing.

Athenry Dispensary, 2 March 1875.

Gentlemen,

WITH much regret I have to inform you that a *very bad case* of *small-pox* has come from Tuam to *this district* on *yesterday*, 1st of March. The history of the case I give below.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *W. J. M. Leonard.*

The Local Government Board,
Custom House, Dublin.

WILLIAM BURK, aged about 22 years, a native of Newcastle, in this dispensary district, took ill on Saturday, the 27th of February, in Tuam, where he was employed as a baker's assistant. He was visited by Dr. Turner on Monday, who ordered his *immediate* removal to *hospital*, as also that his bed and blanket should be either *disinfected* or *destroyed*; but instead of complying with the medical officer's instructions, he was conveyed by mid-day train to Athenry, where he arrived at about 12 o'clock, being exceedingly weak, and suffering from dreadful gastric irritation since *he left Tuam*. He had to remain in a house in Athenry for some hours, when a car was procured, and the poor sufferer conveyed to his father's residence, a distance of about six miles.

I visited him at about 9 o'clock, p.m., and gave full instructions to his friends.

(signed) *W. J. M. Leonard.*

— No. 3. —

(No. 5060—75.)

LETTER from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Galway, 6 March 1875.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of letter, dated 5th instant, directing that I should make inquiry as to the parties responsible for the violation of Section 38 of the Sanitary Act, 1866, in respect of the case of small-pox recently reported by Dr. Leonard, of Athenry.

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On Monday last, while suffering from a severe cold, I ventured out to the hearing of the prosecution of Thomas Colleran, milk contractor, at the Galway Petty Sessions; the exposure on that day so aggravated the cold that I have since been confined to bed with an attack of bronchitis, and cannot expect to be able to leave the house within the coming week.

I have, however, written to Dr. Turner, of Tuam, to furnish me with all the particulars he can learn of the movements of "William Burke" from the time he saw him until he left Tuam, and to Dr. Leonard to inquire from Burke the mode and manner of his removal from Tuam, who were concerned therein, the procuring of the ticket, &c. &c. If this shall not elicit the required information, it will afford the ground-work for any subsequent inquiry that may be necessary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board, Dublin.

— No. 4. —

(No. 5060—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
10 March 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, relating to the inquiry which you were instructed to make as to the parties responsible for the violation of Section 38 of the Sanitary Act, 1866, in respect of the case of small-pox recently reported by Dr. Leonard, of Athenry.

By order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,* Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

— No. 5. —

(No. 5782—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Galway, 13 March 1875.

Gentlemen,

REFERRING to my letter of the 6th instant, in reply to yours of the 5th, No. 4707-75, relating to the case of small-pox which was conveyed from Tuam to Athenry on the 1st instant, I beg to forward extracts from letters received by me from Dr. Turner, of Tuam, and Dr. Leonard, of Athenry, giving particulars respecting his transmission.

The case appears to me to come under Section 38 of the Sanitary Act, 1866. The poor man suffering from the disease in its worst form can hardly be blamed, but his employer, Mr. Corcoran, with whom he resided, comes within the description of the "Person in charge" of the "sufferer," is really reprehensible.

By first putting the sick man into the railway carriage and then going to procure a ticket, and concealing the fact of his sickness, of which he was well aware, he exercised a guilty knowledge, and it would be right to put a check on such practices. The course he took helped to divert the attention of the railway officials from the case, and under the circumstances it may have escaped their notice without culpable neglect.

I beg to repeat my opinion that it would be of service to enlist the aid of the railway companies towards preventing such occurrences, and I trust the information contained in the letters of Drs. Turner and Leonard will suffice to guide the Local Government Board as to any further action that may be considered necessary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

Enclosure in foregoing.

EXTRACT from Dr. *Turner*'s Letter, Tuam, 10 March 1875.

I HAVE made inquiries concerning the deportation of William Burke. When I left the house where he staid he had promised to go to Fever Hospital, and his master said he would walk up with him; however, he changed his mind and determined to go home. His master accompanied him to the train himself, and hurried him into a carriage at once, and then went himself to the office for a ticket. It does not appear that his state was known to any of the railway officials. He walked from his lodgings to the station in company with his master, and being at once put into the carriage by his master, thus evaded the notice of the porter, &c.

(signed) *T. B. Turner.*

* * * * * *

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EXTRACT from Dr. *Leonard*'s Letter, Athenry, 10 March 1875.

AFTER Dr. Turner's visit to William Burke on Monday 29th ultimo, Mr. Corcoran, his employer, recommended him to return home, and assisted in getting him ready for the journey. Burke walked with *great difficulty* to the railway station accompanied by Mr. Corcoran, who took the railway ticket for Burke, and then, fearing *detection* by the constabulary, left Burke seated in the carriage and returned home. I hope the poor sufferer may recover, but he is a dreadful case. He suffered *dreadful gastric irritation* on the *way from Tuam*, and on arriving in Athenry with assistance, made his way to a friend, a publican named Nolan, who lent him his top coat (returned), after landing the patient on Whelan's car at Tyaquin, six miles distant.

(signed) *V. Leonard.*

— No. 6. —

(No. 5787—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
15 March 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to state, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, that they have received a letter from Dr. Leonard, medical officer of the Athenry Dispensary District, reporting a very severe case of small-pox.

They have also received particulars of this case from a communication addressed to their inspector, Dr. Brodie, by Dr. Turner, medical officer of the Tuam Dispensary District, who first visited William Burke, the person suffering from the disease in Tuam, and strongly urged his being conveyed to the workhouse fever hospital.

It appears that this man was attacked with small-pox while resident with his employer, Mr. Corcoran, of Tuam, who recommended him to go home, and who accordingly accompanied him to the railway station, whither Burke walked with great difficulty. Mr. Corcoran then procured a ticket for Burke, having previously placed him in a carriage, and fearing detection by the constabulary or porters, at once left the station, after giving the ticket to Burke, and returned home.

William Burke on arriving in Athenry, with assistance, made his way to a friend, a publican named Nolan, who lent him a coat (since returned), and had him conveyed on a car to his father's house, a distance of six miles.

Dr. Turner states that he left Burke under the impression that he was going to the fever hospital at Tuam.

I am desired by the Local Government Board to state that this case appears to be one in which it woud be most useful to make an example by punishing Mr. Corcoran, under the 38th Section of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

By order of the Board,

T. H. Burke, Esq., &c. &c.,
The Castle, Dublin.

(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

— No. 7. —

(No. 6419—75.)

LETTER from the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant to the Local Government Board.

Dublin Castle, 20 March 1875.

Sir,

REFERRING to your letter of the 15th instant, respecting a case of small-pox in the Loughrea Union, I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you, for the information of the Local Government Board, that the Attorney General has advised that Mr. Corcoran should be proceeded against as suggested by the Board, and his Grace has caused instructions to be given to the constabulary accordingly.

I am, &c.

B. Banks, Esq., Secretary,
Local Government Board, Custom House.

(signed) *T. H. Burke.*

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— No. 8. —

(No. 6302—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 21 March 1875.

YESTERDAY, on my way to attend the meeting of the Loughrea Board of Guardians and inspect the workhouse, I took the opportunity of making inquiry at Athenry into the sanitary state of the district, and regret to have to report that the man "William Burke," who was conveyed from Tuam to Athenry by rail on Monday the 1st instant, whilst suffering from small-pox, has succumbed to the disease; his father, who assisted in carrying his remains to the grave, has since been attacked, but his case is not so serious, and Dr. Leonard hopes he will recover.

I am sorry to have to report that the Rev. Mr. Walsh, Roman Catholic curate, who attended the deceased in his last illness, has been attacked with the disease, and lies very ill at *Kinneen's Hotel, Athenry*; so far as I have been informed, the ordinary business of the hotel has not in consequence been suspended. The hotel is one of resort for commercial travellers, as well as other guests, and the danger of propagation is obvious.

I write by this post to the sanitary officer, Dr. Leonard, advising him to serve a notice upon Mr. Kinneen, the proprietor of the hotel, calling his attention to the provisions of the 39th section of the Sanitary Act, 1866, and warning him against letting rooms or beds so long as the disease is present, and until the house, &c., shall be disinfected.

I purpose to proceed to Athenry on Tuesday, the meeting day of the dispensary committee, with a view to the adoption of necessary sanitary measures.

Dr. Leonard justly complains of the action of the sanitary authority, and the inefficiency of the sanitary sub-officer. I have myself brought the matter under the notice of the Board of Guardians; but the fact remains that Athenry continues to be a filthy place; for its size it is populous, and by the conveyance of railway tracks is a large centre of communication.

I have, &c.

The Local Government Board, Dublin. (signed) *T. Brodie.*

— No. 9. —

(No. 6302—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

Sir, 25 March 1875.

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to forward, for the information of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, the accompanying extract from a communication which they have received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, respecting the case of a man, named William Burke, who was conveyed from Tuam to Athenry, by rail, on Monday the 1st instant, whilst suffering from small-pox.

Dr. Brodie, in this communication, informs the Local Government Board that complaint has been made to him, and justly, of the inaction of the sanitary authority, and of the inefficiency of the sanitary sub-officer of the Athenry district; and notwithstanding that the matter has been frequently brought under the notice of the guardians, he states that Athenry still continues to be in a filthy condition.

The Local Government Board have to refer the guardians to the letter addressed to them on the 29th January last, relating to the want of energy on the part of this sanitary sub-officer; and they have now to state that if he does not use more diligence in the discharge of the duties for which he is responsible, they will not fail to take the most serious notice of his neglect. The Board at the same time trust that the sanitary authority will no longer delay exercising the powers vested in them by the Public Health Act, with a view to remedying the present unsatisfactory condition of the town of Athenry.

By order of the Board,

The Clerk of the Loughrea Union. (signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

— No. 10. —

(No. 6302—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,

Sir, 27 March 1875.

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, relating to the case of the late William Burke, who was recently conveyed from Tuam to Athenry whilst suffering from small-

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small-pox; also informing them that Burke's father and the clergyman who attended him during his last illness have now been attacked with disease.

By order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector,
Galway.

— No. 11. —

(No. 6685–75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 25 March 1875.

ADVERTING to my letter of 21st instant, I beg to state that I visited Athenry on the 23rd instant, and again on yesterday on my way to attend the meeting of the Tuam Board of Guardians. I ascertained from the constabulary and otherwise that Kinneen's Hotel, in which the Rev. Mr. Walsh, R.C.C., lies ill with small-pox, is still kept open in the ordinary way for the reception of guests, &c., notwithstanding that the sanitary officer, Dr. Leonard, has warned Mr. Kinneen of the penalties of the 39th section of the Sanitary Act, 1866.

The sanitary sub-officer does not reside in Athenry, and it could not be expected that Dr. Leonard would keep watch on the house to procure evidence for prosecutions and convictions.

In this case of Mr. Kinneen, a wealthy man appears wilfully to ignore the law against the spread of infection, and if the Local Government Board consider it of sufficient importance to vindicate the law, I would respectfully suggest as the most efficient means, that the Inspector General be requested to direct the constabulary, whose barrack is immediately opposite the hotel, to take cognisance of the facts with a view to ulterior proceedings.

The transmission of persons suffering from small-pox, and the conditions under which they are lodged and cured, and the facilities of inter-communication, all combine to limit or extend the disease, and I think it is necessary to fix public attention in a marked manner upon cases such as the removal of the deceased man "William Burke," and the treatment of the Rev. Mr. Walsh in a public hotel frequented by persons who are wholly ignorant of the presence of such dangerous contagious disease.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board.

— No. 12. —

(No. 6685—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
27 March 1875.

Sir,

WITH reference to their letter of the 15th instant, reporting the conveyance of a case of small-pox from Tuam to Athenry, the Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, copies of communications* which they have received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, regarding this and two further cases of the disease which have since arisen, one of which is under treatment at "Kineen's Hotel," Athenry.

* Nos. 7 and 10.

By order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq., &c., &c., &c.,
Dublin Castle.

— No 13. —

(No. 7039—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 29 March 1875.

THE following is a copy of a note received by me this morning from Doctor Leonard in reply to a communication addressed by me to him.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board, Dublin.

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Dear Doctor, Athenry, Sunday, 28 March 1875.

THE hotel is closed to all strangers, in obeyance to the notice served on Mr. Kineen last Wednesday.

The Rev. Mr. Walsh is exceedingly weak; I cannot promise much for his recovery, but hope for the better.

Ever yours, &c.
(signed) *H. Leonard.*

To Dr. Brodie.

Doctor Leonard reports by mid-day post as follows:—

"A line to say our dear priest is dead; he died at three o'clock this morning."

I have given orders for interment this evening, fearing the result.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *H. Leonard.*

Monday Morning, 29 March 1875.
To Dr. Brodie.

No. 14.

(No. 7151—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 30 March 1875.

I REGRET to have to report another case of small-pox in the person of a boy, aged 12 years, who had been vaccinated. He resides with his father at a place called Newcastle, distant about three miles from Athenry, and not far from where the late William Burke died. The father, mother, niece, and five children all reside in the same house, and to these I may add a cow and horse. Doctor Leonard having reported the case to me by this morning's post, I proceeded to Athenry to confer with him as to the best means of preventing the spread of the disease. He fears that the removal of the patient to the Loughrea Workhouse Hospital, a distance of 12 or 14 miles, would be attended with serious danger; and as there is no outhouse in the neighbourhood to which the poor sufferer could be removed, I fear he must remain where he is at present.

The remains of the late Rev. Mr. Walsh were interred last evening. Mr. Kineen, the proprietor of the hotel, has promised to have the bed, bedding, and every article of furniture in the room in which the priest died, burned, the paper removed from the wall, and the wall well limewashed, and to carry out Dr. Leonard's directions in every possible way.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board, Dublin.

— No 15. —

(No. 7151—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
31 March 1875.

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence relating to the existence of small-pox in the Athenry Dispensary District of the Loughrea Union, the Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, copies of further communications* which they have received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, on the subject.

*Nos. 12 and 13.

By order, &c.
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

Thomas H. Burke, Esq., &c., &c., &c.,
Dublin Castle.

— No 16. —

(No. 7039 & 7151.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
31 March 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your reports, dated respectively the 29th and 30th instant, relating to the presence

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presence of small-pox in the Athenry Dispensary District of the Loughrea Union; and I am to inform you that these, as well as your former reports, have been communicated to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By order, &c.
Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway. (signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

— No 17. —

(No. 7661—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 5 April 1875.

DOCTOR LEONARD, medical officer, Athenry Dispensary District, writes to me as follows:—

Dear Doctor Brodie, Athenry, Monday, 5 April 1875.

I regret to inform you of another case of small-pox, and particularly so, as it occurs to a member of my own family, Miss Kelly, my sister-in-law, who lives with me.

Yours. &c.
Dr. Brodie, L.G.I. (signed) *H. Leonard.*

I have, &c.
The Local Government Board, (signed) *T. Brodie.*
Custom House Dublin.

— No. 18. —

(No. 7661—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
Sir, 7 April 1875.

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th instant, informing them of the occurrence of another case of small-pox in the town of Athenry, the person attacked being a member of the family of Dr. Leonard, medical officer of the Athenry Dispensary District.

By order, &c.
Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway. (signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

— No. 19. —

(No. 8224—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Tuam, Monday, 12 April 1875.

I HAVE the honour to state, for your information, that the case of the "Queen" at the prosecution of Warburton, Sub-inspector of Constabulary, *versus* Patrick Corcoran, for wilfully exposing William Burke, while suffering from small-pox, without proper precaution against spreading the disorder, was this day, on the application of Mr. Henderson, employed to defend Corcoran, adjourned to this day fortnight.

It is with extreme regret I have to report that Robert Bodkin, Esq., D.L., Chairman Tuam Board of Guardians, has been attacked with small-pox, and lies ill at his residence "Annagh." He returned from Dublin on Friday last, where he had been since the previous Monday. He was ill leaving Dublin.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

A FRESH case of small-pox of a bad type in Athenry; the person so attacked is the parish clerk.

Loughrea Union. *T. B.*
The Local Government Board.

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— No. 20. —

(No. 8224—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
14 April 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, informing them that proceedings have been instituted by the Crown against Patrick Corcoran for "wilfully exposing William Burke, "while suffering from small-pox, without proper precaution against spreading the disorder" (Section 38 of 29 & 30 Vict. c. 90); also stating that Mr. Robert Bodkin, D.L., Chairman of the Tuam Board of Guardians, has been attacked with small-pox, and that a fresh case of the disease has occurred in the town of Athenry.

By order of the Board.

(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

— No. 21. —

(No. 8457—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 15 April 1875.

ON my arrival here at a late hour last night I received the accompanying telegram from relieving officer Lally. It being then too late to telegraph to him, I wrote by the night post to Dr. Leonard, apprising him of the nature of Lally's telegram. I suggested to him that he should act in the case with his usual judgment and discretion, be guided by circumstances, such as safety of removal, the procuring a proper mode of conveyance, the locality of the patient's residence, the probability of procuring an outhouse where the patient could be treated apart from the other inmates of the house.

By this afternoon's post the two accompanying communications from Dr. Leonard came to hand, and as it is to be feared that the disease will spread in Athenry, I beg to suggest that the guardians of the Loughrea Union be addressed on the subject with a view to their taking immediate steps to provide hospital accommodation for the treatment of patients labouring under this disease. Dr. Lynch, the efficient medical officer of workhouse, will afford them valuable advice and assistance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board,
Duhlin.

Enclosures in foregoing.

I.—TELEGRAM from Relieving Officer *Lally* to Dr. *Brodie*, 14th April 1875.

Office of Origin, Athenry, handed in at 7.30 p.m., sent out at 7.35 p.m.

From *Thomas Lally*, Relieving Officer, Athenry, to Doctor *Brodie*, M.D., Palmyra-terrace, Galway.

Doctor Leonard has ordered Catherine Cannon, who is suffering from small-pox, to hospital. Am I justified in doing? Entirely destitute.

II.—LETTER from Dr. *Leonard* to Dr. *Brodie*, dated 14th April.

Dear Sir, Athenry, 14 April 1875.

ON this evening I was called on a red ticket to visit Catherine Cannon, residing in a lodging-house kept by her aunt in Athenry, The poor afflicted creature has no mother. Her father was never a help to her, and not able in any way, if willing, to attend to her wants. She is suffering from small-pox, and piteously asked me to have her removed to hospital.

The relieving officer, Thomas Lally, being in Athenry, I sent him an order, stating the facts, and requesting her immediate removal to hospital. He shortly after called in at my house, and told me that without a consultation with the guardians in Loughrea he would not remove the patient, but that he gave her father 2 *s.* as relief until he received further orders.

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orders. If I am debarred from discharging my duty to the suffering poor, I must respectfully ask the Local Government Board, through you, if the union hospital is open to small-pox patients, and if such be the case to inform the relieving officer of his duty.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *H. J. W. Leonard.*

Dr. Brodie,
Medical Inspector.

III.—Letter from Dr. *Leonard* to Dr. *Brodie*, dated 15th April.

Athenry, Thursday morning,
15 April 1875.

My dear Sir,

I gave full particulars in my letter to you of last night, which I fear was late when posted, as to the very sad case of Catherine Cannon, and have only now to say that there are eight in family, all in the house, part of which is a baker's shop, therefore you may judge as to the danger existing; the creature has scarcely sufficient covering.

I have now to report another case, that of Mary Gallagher, who lives with her mother in Larkin's-lane; she has two sisters and one brother, as also her father and mother, six in all, who live in one small room, which they call a house. I fear unless some prompt measures are taken that this dreadful disease will spread beyond control.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *H. J. W. Leonard.*

Doctor Brodie, M.D.,
Medical Inspector.

P.S.—Are not the guardians supposed to have a proper mode of conveyance for the sick poor of the district?

H. J. W. L.

— No. 22. —

(No. 8457—75.)

Letter from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
16 April 1875.

Sir,

The Local Government Board for Ireland have to acquaint the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union that they have this day received from their Inspector, Dr. Brodie, a communication from which it appears that two new cases of small-pox have occurred in the town of Athenry; and the guardians will observe from the enclosed copies of letters addressed to Dr. Brodie by the medical officer of the Athenry dispensary district, that it is to be feared that the disease will spread in the town.

The Local Government Board have therefore to request that the guardians will have the goodness to take immediate steps to provide hospital accommodation for the treatment of patients labouring under this disease.

The guardians should avail themselves of the advice and assistance of Dr. Lynch, the medical officer of the workhouse, in making any arrangements that may be necessary.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

To the Clerk, Loughrea Union.

— No. 23. —

(No. 8457—75.)

Letter from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
16 April 1875.

Sir,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and its enclosures, from which it appears that two new cases of small-pox have occurred in the town of Athenry; and I am to inform you that the Local Government Board have addressed the Loughrea Board of Guardians, as suggested by you, in reference to the provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of persons labouring under the disease.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Gort.

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— No. 24. —

(No. 8650—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 17 April 1875.

HEREWITH a communication received by me, on yesterday, from Mr. J. H. Blake, Deputy Vice Chairman, Loughrea Board of Guardians.

The following is a copy of my reply:—

"My Dear Mr. Blake, "Galway, 18 April 1875.

"HAVING left home this morning by the quarter past six o'clock train for Gort, yours of yesterday's date was not received until after my return by quarter past two o'clock train.

"Now as regards the removal of the small-pox patient to the Loughrea Workhouse Hospital:—

"On my arrival here at a late hour on Wednesday from Portumna, I was handed a telegram from relieving officer Lally informing me that Dr. Leonard had directed him to remove a small-pox patient to hospital, and wishing to know if he would be justified in carrying out the doctor's directions. It being then too late to telegraph to Lally, I wrote by the night's post to Dr. Leonard, giving the purport of Lally's telegram, and stating that I felt convinced that he, Dr. Leonard, would act in the case with his usual judgment and discretion, guided entirely by circumstances, such as the safety or danger of removal, the procuring a proper mode of conveyance, the locality of the patient's residence, number of persons in the same house, the possibility of getting an out-house where the patient could be treated apart from the other members of the family, &c., &c. On the following day I received a communication from Dr. Leonard, which I forwarded by the night's post to the Local Government Board, and apprized the doctor of my having done so.

"You have now the entire history of the case, without any expression of opinion from me as to the expediency or otherwise of the patient's removal to hospital.

"Yours, &c.
(signed) "*T. Brodie.*"

"J. H. Blake, J.P.
&c. &c."

Five new cases were reported to me during the past week. It is my intention to visit the locality to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board, Dublin.

Enclosure in foregoing.

LETTER from Mr. *Blake.*

Dear Dr. Brodie, Loughrea, 16 April 1875.

THERE was great consternation displayed here yesterday by the removal of a small-pox patient from Athenry to the workhouse hospital. I understand the patient was out of all danger, and therefore I think the great necessity for removal did not exist. The workhouse van was sent for on yesterday morning, Thursday, and the patient driven through the town here at a little after five o'clock p.m., when the streets were crowded, being market day.

The people got very excited, and would, I am informed, have driven the van back again, were it not for the interference of the constabulary.

Dr. Leonard said he had your authority for this proceeding, but I very much doubt you would direct a small-pox patient to be driven a distance of nine miles through a district where the disease has not yet appeared, and through a town at an hour densely crowded. To say the least of it, I think Dr. Leonard has acted most injudiciously in the matter.

If possible, I think it would be most advisable for you to attend our Board to-morrow.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. H. Blake.*

Dr. Brodie, Galway.

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— No. 25. —

(No. 8693—75.)

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union on the 17th April 1875.

READ letter from the Local Government Board, No. 8457, dated 16th April 1875, enclosing copies of communications addressed by Dr. Leonard to their inspector relative to the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry, and requesting the Board of Guardians would take immediate steps towards providing hospital accommodation for patients labouring under this disease.

The Board having consulted Dr. Lynch thereon, and ascertained his views regarding the proper treatment of such cases, &c., an order was forthwith forwarded (by telegraph) to Messrs. Braby, of Euston-road, London, for an iron hospital for 12 patients, plan of which had been obtained from that firm, to be set up in a suitable place in the neighbourhood of Athenry for the reception of small-pox and other contagious diseases. The clerk was also directed to advertise for the appointment on this day fortnight of two female nurses for attendance on such cases, at a salary, while employed, of 1 *l.* a week each and rations.

Sanitary Sub-officer Lally reported:—

"That he has been employed this week on sanitary matters, and in attending on and relieving small-pox patients in his district; he has relieved three of these cases provisionally, and sent one of them to the workhouse hospital; that he has also served notice (under Section 39 of the Sanitary Act of 1866) upon a man named Michael Kenny, of Athenry, warning him against allowing any person into his lodging house, small-pox having broken out in it."

The Board having adverted to the course pursued in transmitting the case to hospital—

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Bateman, seconded by Mr. Toole:—

"We, the Board of Guardians assembled this day at the Loughrea Workhouse, cannot separate without expressing our strong disapprobation of the conduct of the Athenry Dispensary doctor (Dr. Leonard), in forwarding (without any previous intimation) a small-pox case in the day time from Athenry to Loughrea, a distance of nine miles, the van in which the patient was borne arriving in the town of Loughrea a little after five o'clock p.m., when the streets were crowded, being market day, which caused great consternation and dismay to the inhabitants of a district hitherto perfectly free from such disease."

Amendment moved by Mr. James Clarke, seconded by Mr. James G. Clarke:—

"That the resolution should not be passed without first getting an explanation from Dr. Leonard."

Upon a division of the Board, there voted for the amendment two against 10.

The resolution having been accordingly declared carried, the clerk was directed to transmit a copy thereof to Dr. Leonard.

— No. 26. —

(No. 8722—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 19 April 1875.

ADVERTING to my report of yesterday's date relative to the outbreak of small-pox in Athenry, and the removal to the Loughrea workhouse hospital of a patient labouring under the disease, I have to state for your information that I visited Athenry this day and had an interview with Dr. Leonard, the dispensary medical officer, who informed me that there are now eight or 10 patients under treatment, including the Rev. Mr. Blake, a most respectable Roman Catholic clergyman, residing at Eskar Convent, distant about three miles from Athenry.

In the course of the day I met Mr. James Clarke, a member of the Loughrea Board of Guardians, who informed me that the guardians, at their meeting on Saturday last, severely animadverted upon and censured Dr. Leonard for having caused the removal of a small-pox patient to hospital on Thursday. I feel bound to say, in justice to Dr. Leonard, that he has displayed so much energy in coping with the disease that I am certain his directions regarding the removal of patients to hospital will be judiciously exercised. One thing is certain, that the removal of the patient to hospital on Thursday last has been productive of one good result, as the guardians have been induced to direct their clerk to write by that night's post to a firm in London to forward, without delay, one of their iron hospital buildings complete, capable of accommodating 12 patients.

Accompanied by Dr. Leonard and Mr. James Clarke, I visited several places in the neighbourhood of Athenry, with a view to the selection of a suitable site for the erection of the building. There are some very eligible sites, but I fear that the owners will not consent. I am not aware of there being any compulsory power.

I have, &c.

Local Government Board, Dublin. (signed) *T. Brodie.*

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— No. 27. —

(No. 8650—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
20 April 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your further communications, dated respectively the 17th and 19th instant, relating to the progress of small-pox in Athenry, Loughrea Union; and I am to forward, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter, which they have this day addressed to the Loughrea Town Commissioners,* in reply to a resolution adopted by them regarding the case recently removed to the workhouse by direction of Dr. Leonard, medical officer of the Athenry Dispensary district.

* No. 29.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Clifden.

— No. 28. —

(No. 8723—75.)

TELEGRAM from the Secretary to the Loughrea Town Commissioners to the Local Government Board, dated 19th April 1875.

AT a special meeting of the Loughrea Town Commissioners held this 19th day of April 1875, Thomas D. O'Farrell, Esq., in the chair, it was proposed by Mr. Stratton, seconded by Mr. Forde, and unanimously adopted—That the Loughrea Town Commissioners beg to attract the attention of the Local Government Board to the circumstance of the medical officer at Athenry having on Thursday last the 15th instant, being the market day, caused to be sent to the workhouse here a small-pox patient, causing great terror and alarm to the people, which has not up to the present subsided, but, on the contrary, has increased, owing to a rumour that another patient is to be taken this day to the workhouse from Athenry, and the Commissioners in the interest of the public and of order, request the Local Government Board to take immediate action in preventing any other small-pox patients being taken from Athenry or elsewhere to the workhouse here, but that suitable hospital accommodation should be forthwith provided in Athenry, or the neighbourhood, for the persons afflicted with the disease.

— No. 29. —

(No. 8723—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Secretary of the Loughrea Town Commissioners.

Sir, Local Government Board, Dublin, 20 April 1875.

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have this day received from you a telegram regarding the proceedings of the Town Commissioners of Loughrea at a special meeting held on yesterday, when a resolution was adopted in which the Commissioners refer to the recent removal of a small-pox patient from Athenry by direction of Dr. Leonard, the medical officer of the district, and request the immediate interference of the Local Government Board in order that no more cases of the disease may be removed from Athenry, or elsewhere, to the workhouse hospital.

In reply, the Local Government Board have to state that they are informed by their inspector, Dr. Brodie, that the medical officer is using great energy in coping with the disease, and they have no doubt that if it be found necessary to remove patients to the hospital, in order to prevent, as far as possible, the spread of the disease, Dr. Leonard's directions will be judiciously exercised.

The Local Government Board observe from the Minutes of Proceedings of the Loughrea Board of Guardians on the 17th instant, that an order was given for the immediate purchase of an iron hospital, which if erected will, no doubt, result in the isolation of those suffering from the disease; and the Board hope that no difficulty will be experienced in providing at once a suitable site for its erection.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Michael S. Kelly, Esq.,
Town Clerk, Loughrea.

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— No. 30. —

(No. 8853—75.)

MINUTES of Extraordinary Meetings of the Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union, on the 19th and 20th April 1875.

REQUISITION for an extraordinary meeting handed in to the clerk by Messrs. Martin Tarpy and John Dimond at 1.30 o'clock p.m., for Monday the 19th April 1875.

"To consider the best manner of providing a mode of conveyance to hospital for infectious diseases in case the guardians order the present van to be destroyed."

Pursuant to the above a meeting was held at the board-room, at 5 o'clock p.m. on same day.

Present: In the chair—Captain Smyth.

Other members—Messrs. A. W. Blake, John Dimond, Thomas Glynn, and Martin Tarpy.

The guardians assembled having taken into consideration the subject of the expediency of destroying the van, which had been employed in the conveyance to the workhouse of the small-pox patient, Catherine Cannon, are of opinion that the van in question ought to be repaired and kept on the workhouse grounds, for the purpose of being sent out for the conveyance of any similar case of small-pox or other infectious disease that may arise in the Union in future; also that the said vehicle be thoroughly disinfected in such manner as the medical officer, Dr. Lynch, may approve.

(signed) *John Smyth.*

There were present also at this meeting, Right Rev. Dr. Duggan, Bishop of Clonfert, Rev. Mr. Flanagan, C.C., and Dr. Burke, medical officer, Bullaun Dispensary District.

Requisition handed in for an extraordinary meeting to be holden on Tuesday the 20th April 1875, at 12 o'clock noon, by Messrs. A. W. Blake and John Dimond:—

"To consider the advisability of directing our medical officer, Dr. Lynch, and the relieving officer, J. Reckham, proceeding to Athenry on to-morrow, Tuesday, for the purpose of conferring with Dr. Leonard and relieving officer Lally, as to the best means of obtaining temporary hospital accommodation for any patient suffering from small-pox until the arrival of the iron hospital that has been ordered by the guardians, and take such other steps for local treatment as may appear advisable."

Tuesday, 20th April 1875, at an extraordinary meeting held this day,—

Present: In the chair—John H. Blake, Esq.

Other members—Messrs. John Toole, Martin Tarpy, and John Dimond. (Right Rev. Dr. Duggan, Rev. James Carroll, and Dr. O'Donoghoe also attended the meeting.)

Proposed by Mr. Toole, seconded by Mr. Tarpy, and carried unanimously—

Resolved—That Dr. O'Donoghoe and the relieving officer, Mr. Reckham, proceed immediately to Athenry to confer with Dr. Leonard, the dispensary doctor there, as to the best means to be adopted towards procuring a temporary hospital for the small-pox patients there, and that we authorise Dr. O'Donoghoe and Mr. Reckham to make the necessary arrangements for hire of such house or hospital, and if a house cannot be had, to enter into a contract to build a shed in a convenient place for the temporary hospital.

(signed) *P. Egan*, Clerk of the Union.

— No. 31. —

(No. 8553—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Sir, Local Government Board, Dublin, 21 April 1875.

ADVERTING to previous correspondence in reference to the recent outbreak of small-pox in Athenry and its vicinity, the Local Government Board for Ireland forward, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copies of further reports received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, on the subject.*

* Nos. 17, 24, and 26.

 These

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These reports show the progress of the disease, and the steps taken in order to prevent as far as possible its spreading further. It will be observed, from the inspector's report of the 19th instant, that there are now eight or ten patients under treatment, including the Rev. Mr. Blake, a Roman Catholic clergyman, residing at Eskar Convent, distant about three miles from Athenry.

The removal, by order of Dr. Leonard, medical officer to the Loughrea Workhouse Hospital, of a patient suffering from the disease, on a market-day last week, appears to have caused considerable consternation amongst the inhabitants of Athenry, and his conduct in having done so was severely animadverted upon by the Board of Guardians of Loughrea Union and the Town Commissioners, but the Local Government Board think that he has acted with great energy in coping with the disease, and that his directions for the removal of patients will be judiciously exercised.

The Local Government Board have also received a telegram from the Loughrea Town Commissioners, referring to the removal of the patient above mentioned, and requesting their immediate interference, in order that no more cases may be removed to the hospital, but the Local Government Board have informed the Commissioners that they thought Dr. Leonard was doing his duty; believing that the only way of checking the progress of the disease is by immediate removal of each case as it occurs, in order that complete isolation may take place.

The Board observe from the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians at meetings held on the 17th, 19th, and 20th instant, that all the steps necessary seem to have been taken in providing a van, and also in directing the immediate purchase of an iron hospital from London to accommodate 12 patients, and the Local Government Board hope that no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining at once a suitable site for its erection.

In the meantime the guardians have directed their sanitary sub-officer to make the necessary arrangements for the hire of a suitable house, and if such cannot be obtained, they will enter into a contract to build a shed in a convenient place as a temporary hospital.

The Local Government Board this morning learned from Major Daly, deputy vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, that yesterday the workhouse van was attacked on its way from Loughrea to Athenry, the horse and driver sent back, and the van itself burned.

The Local Government Board have to observe that the inhabitants of Athenry and the surrounding neighbourhood appear to be more alarmed at the means used for the abatement of small-pox than the ravages which will too surely follow from the neglect of the immediate removal of each case to hospital.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Thos. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.
The Castle.

— No. 32. —

(No. 8853—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, at the extraordinary meetings held by them on the 19th and 20th instant; and with reference to the resolution which was adopted regarding the conveyance of patients suffering from small-pox to the workhouse hospital, the Board have to state that whether small-pox were present or not, a vehicle for the conveyance of sick persons is indispensable, and now especially so, as the Board have been informed that on the 20th instant, the workhouse van was attacked on its way from Loughrea to Athenry, the horse and driver sent back, and the van itself burned.

The Board have therefore to request the guardians to be good enough to at once provide a covered vehicle, even for temporary use, without waiting for the ordinary proceeding of advertising and contracting.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

The Clerk, Loughrea Union.

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— No. 33. —

(No. 9100—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 24 April 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report for your information that at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, held this day, which I attended—

In the Chair.—Captain Rodgers.
Other Guardians.—Major Daly, Messrs. Dolphin, Dimond, and Glinn.

It appeared that the proceedings adopted since the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday last were—Dr. Donoghue, and relieving officer Beckham, proceeded the same day to Athenry to procure, if possible, a house there, to be used as a temporary hospital until the arrival of the iron hospital building from London, or in case they could not get a house, to contract with some persons to erect a temporary wooden shed; they searched, but could get no person to consent to let a house, or a field or paddock, for a site for the hospital. However Mr. J. Blake, agent to the Marquis Clanricarde, has promised a site about one mile and a half from the town of Athenry.

A letter was read from the Messrs. Brahy, of London, to the effect that they will lose no time in dispatching the iron hospital (which they expect to do next week) as they have extra hands at work in painting the hospital, &c. The guardians at their meeting this day passed a resolution requesting the interference of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant (through the Local Government Board) to pass an Order in Council prohibiting the holding of the fair in Athenry on Wednesday the 5th proximo, in consequence of the prevalence of small-pox there.

An order has been made to advertise for a new van and receive tenders for such at next meeting; and in the meantime three of the guardians, with the clerk, have been authorised to treat with some person in town for a covered vehicle to be used in the conveyance of sick and infirm persons to hospital.

The cause which has led to this proceeding (ordering a new van) appears to have been —On Monday last, about 11 o'clock a.m., the van was dispatched on requisition of relieving officer Lally, to take a small-pox patient from Athenry to Loughrea Workhouse Hospital; the fact having become known outside, a number of persons congregated on the outskirts of the town, and as the van was passing the West Bridge, on the way to Athenry, they commenced shouting and using threatening language to the driver, and taking hold of the horse cut some of the harness to prevent his proceeding further; the driver accordingly returned with the horse to the workhouse, and the van was taken over towards the lake by some of the rioters and left on the Fair Green. At this stage of the proceedings it appears the police took charge of the van, and two of their body remained on guard. A message was sent through the relieving officer, Beckham, from the constabulary to the workhouse master, requesting him to send down and take the van away, as they could not remain in charge of it; but the harness being injured, and the excitement at its highest, the master was unable to attend to the message. On his going down town soon afterwards to have the harness repaired, he met some of the guardians proceeding to the workhouse for the purpose of giving notice for an extraordinary meeting, and he returned back with them (at their suggestion) to learn the result; while the guardians where deliberating (at five o'clock) an account was brought in that the van was on fire. It is stated that a quantity of tow, or such other stuff, dipped in paraffin oil, was thrown into the inner part and fire then placed on it, so that in a short time all were in a blaze.

The van was not removed from the custody of the police, and it does not appear that any effort was made to extinguish the flames. The clerk went out in the evening at about eight o'clock, and took for safety into his own private yard the axle, springs, and some irons, being the only salvage that could be recovered.

At the meeting this day the Chairman and Major Daly expressed their disapprobation in strong terms of this lawless and outrageous act, but postponed any definite action pending a probable inquiry on the part of the authorities.

Small-pox not on the increase in Athenry; four or five cases under treatment, and an equal number convalescent.

To the Local Government Board, Dublin.

25 April 1875.

THE case of the "Queen *v.* P. Corcoran, for the wilful exposure of William Burke while suffering from small-pox, without proper precautions against spreading the disease," the hearing of which was postponed from Monday the 12th to Monday the 26th, will have to be further postponed, owing to the absence of Dr. Turner, a principal witness in the case.

Mr. P. O'Loughlin, sessional crown solicitor, has received directions from his Excellency to prosecute in the case.

No fresh case of small-pox during past week in the Tuam electoral division.

One case reported in the Abbey dispensary district.

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No. 34.

(No. 9100—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Duhlin,
26 April 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of a report which they have this day received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, in continuation of previous reports on the subject of the presence of small-pox in the town of Athenry, Loughrea Union.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.
Duhlin Castle.

No. 35.

(No. 9100—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board, Duhlin,
26 April 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed hy the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your report of the 24th instant, relating to the presence of small-pox in Athenry, Loughrea Union; also your communication of the 25th instant, informing them of the further postponement of the case at Tuam, of the "Queen *v.* P. Corcoran."

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

No. 36.

(No. 9161—75.)

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians on the 24th April 1875.

The Reports of the Master and other officers were read, and orders made thereon as follows:—

"That having received an order on last Monday from Relieving Officer Lally, he dispatched the van to take a small-pox case into hospital from Athenry; when the vehicle was passing over the West Bridge it was met hy a large number of persons who threatened the driver, cut some of the harness, and took the horse from under it; the van was kept on the Fair Green, and about five o'clock that evening it was set on fire and consumed, the axle springs and some other irons only being saved."

Read letter from the Local Government Board, dated 23rd April 1875, adverting to the proceedings of the extraordinary meetings, and to the question of the destruction or disinfection of the van, stating that, as they learn, this vehicle has been attacked and destroyed in Loughrea, no time should be lost in finding a covered vehicle for the conveyance of the sick to hospital.

The Board directed that advertisements be issued for contract to be entered into at next meeting for supplying a new van; and also authorised three of the members, Messrs. Toole, Diamond, and Tarpey, with the clerk, to treat with some party in town for the immediate hire or purchase of a vehicle suitable for the conveyance of sick or infirm paupers to the workhouse hospital.

Letter from the town clerk, Longrea, dated 23rd April 1875, transmitting copy of resolution passed at the Commissioners' meeting of Monday last, disapproving the course pursued by Dr. Leonard in sending small-pox cases from Athenry into the workhouse hospital, and stating that the attention of the Local Government Board has been also called to this matter.

The

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The Board having taken into consideration the advisability of postponing the holding of the next fair at Athenry, fixed for Wednesday the 5th May next, in consequence of the prevalence of small-pox there, and having requested the opinion of their consulting sanitary officer thereon, he stated that he considers it would be perilous to hold said fair under the present circumstances.

We therefore request the Local Government Board will represent the matter to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, with a view to an Order in Council being issued authorising the postponement of said fair.

The clerk produced letters and telegrams received from Mr. Goodbody of Clare, relative to the site for the iron hospital on one of his farms near Athenry, the result being that he regrets he could not comply with the request of the Board, on the grounds that his people object to have small-pox patients in their neighbourhood.

It having been intimated that Mr. Blake would grant a site on Lord Clanricarde's property in the townland of Slieveroe, a mile and a half from Athenry, the clerk was directed to communicate with Mr. Blake accordingly.

No. 37.

(No. 9326—75.)

LETTER from the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant to the Local Government Board.

(Immediate.)

Sir, Dublin Castle, 28 April 1875.

REFERRING to the resolution of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, a copy of which was included in Dr. Brodie's report of the 24th instant, of which a copy accompanied your letter of the 26th instant, I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you, for the information of the Local Government Board, that his Grace has been advised that he has no power to prevent the holding of the fair in Athenry on the 5th proximo, on the ground of the prevalence of small-pox there.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. H. Burke.*

The Secretary,
Local Government Board, Custom House.

— No. 38. —

(No. 9161—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
30 April 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, on the 24th instant, containing a resolution in which the guardians request the Local Government Board to represent to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant the danger of holding the fair at Athenry, on the 5th proximo, owing to the prevalence of small-pox there, with a view to an Order in Council being issued authorising the postponement of the fair.

In reply, the Board have to acquaint the guardians that they have received a communication from the Under Secretary for Ireland stating that his Grace has been advised that he has no power to prevent the holding of the fair at Athenry, on the 5th May, upon the grounds suggested.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,* Secretary.

The Clerk, Loughrea Union.

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— No. 39. —

(No. 9463—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 30 April 1875.

Dr. LEONARD writes to me as follows:—

"Dear Sir, "Athenry Dispensary, 29 April 1875.

"THE persons named in the enclosed visiting tickets are dreadfully ill. Small-pox has appeared in one, the eldest daughter raving. The patient, Morris, a lodger in the same house, is exceedingly ill with gastric irritation.

"The mother, Connelly, who came for their medicine after my visit, crying, said she would carry her child to Loughrea, if she thought she could gain admittance to the union hospital for herself and her family.

"I have also to report the cases of Ellen and Mary Coen, in Chapel-lane, aged 16 and 18 years, suffering from small-pox since your visit to Athenry on Saturday."

I write by this post to Dr. Leonard requesting him to meet me in Athenry to-morrow, when on my way to attend the meeting of the Loughrea Board of Guardians.

I have, &c.

The Local Government Board, Dublin. (signed) *T. Brodie.*

— No. 40. —

(No. 9463—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,

Sir, 3 May 1875.

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your communication, of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of small-pox, at Athenry, in the Loughrea Union.

By Order of the Board,

Dr. Brodie, Inspector. (signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

— No. 41. —

(No. 9551—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 2 April 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, held on yesterday, which I attended,—

In the chair, J. H. Blake, deputy vice chairman; other guardians, Major Daly, Captain Rogers, M. Tarpy, and T. Glynn. The principal business transacted had reference to the present small-pox outbreak in Athenry, and the means to be adopted to isolate and guard against its progress.

As regards the site for the iron hospital, which appears by telegram received from the Messrs. Brahy is ready to be sent off, the clerk, and a member of the Board, proceeded on Friday, the 30th ultimo, to Slieveroe, a townland between Athenry and Craughwell, the site promised by Mr. J. H. Blake, agent to the Marquis Clanricarde, but the locality being under the serious disadvantage of a scarcity of good water during summer, they considered it useless to take any further steps. The erection of the hospital on this site was not viewed in a very favourable light by the Craughwell people, as a large number with the parish priest, Rev. Mr. Arthur, attended and manifested by their expressions and gestures their disapproval, and hinted their determination to oppose by force the proposed building being sent amongst them. However, I am happy to say that the offer of Dr. Leonard, made through me, to allow the hospital to be erected in a field of his, a short distance from the town, has released the guardians from the dilemma in which they had been placed for the want of a site for the hospital.

The

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The guardians directed that 12 iron bedsteads be immediately purchased and kept in readiness to be transmitted to Athenry, with a sufficient supply of clothing and bedding, which it appears can be at present spared from the workhouse. Cooking utensils, and other requisites were also ordered to be procured, and three members of the Board were deputed to purchase a covered car from a person in town, to be sent to Athenry, for the conveyance of small-pox patients from their homes to the iron hospital.

The guardians have also appointed as assistants two of the nurses in the Cork-street Hospital, Dublin, who had been recommended to them as "experienced and skilled attendants on small-pox cases." They are to enter on discharge of their duties next Saturday, or, should their services be sooner required, it is promised by the resident physician of the hospital mentioned that they will be prepared to start any time they receive notice.

The disinfecting apparatus, ordered on the 17th ultimo, is expected in a day or two. On the whole the guardians are now endeavouring to meet the exigencies of their position in the best manner possible, and it is hoped that if no other cases of a severe type or form occur, those at present under treatment in Athenry and its neighbourhood will favourably progress, and that the past temporary want of the advantages of a properly organised and regulated hospital will not be felt by those poor people, who are undergoing the ordeal, and that the local authorities will be soon prepared to receive and treat any that may be hereafter attacked with this severe and dreaded disease.

The Local Government Board, Dublin.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

Enclosure in Foregoing.

NAMES of Small-pox Patients in the Athenry District, from 1st March to 30th April 1875.

NAME.	RESULT.			OBSERVATIONS.
	Died.	Recovered.	Under Treatment.	
Patt Burke	1	-	-	Sent from Tuam to Athenry per railway.
„ Burke, Sen.	–	1	-	Father to Patt Burke.
Rev. T. Walsh, R.C.C.	1	-	-	Administered the last rites of the Church to Burke.
Four Coppingers	–	2	2	Reside at Newcastle, four miles from Athenry.
Miss Kelly	–	1	-	Sister-in-law to Dr. Leonard.
Two Dooleys	–	-	2	
J. Boyle	–	-	1	A Galway militiaman.
Two Kennys	1	-	1	Children of the waiter at Kinneen's Hotel.
T. Gallagher	–	1	—	
Two Connellys	–	-	2	
Two Coens	–	-	2	
P. Mahon	–	-	1	
Rev. A Blake	–	-	1	Resides at Esker, two miles from Athenry.
TOTAL	3	5	12	Of the 12 under treatment four are convalescing.

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— No. 42. —

(No. 9551—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
3 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of a report which they have this day received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, in continuation of previous reports on the existence of small-pox at Athenry, Loughrea Union.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*,
Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.
Dublin Castle.

— No. 43. —

(No. 9551—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
4 May 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your report of the 2nd instant, in continuation of previous reports on the existence of small-pox in Athenry, Loughrea Union.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector,
Ballinasloe.

— No. 44. —

(No. 9599—75.)

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians on 1st May 1875.

THERE being no tenders for the supply of the van, the clerk was directed to again advertise for such, and three of the guardians present, Captain Rogers, Messrs. Tarpy and Glynn, were requested to treat with Mr. James Gunter for the purchase of his covered car, to be used for the conveyance of small-pox cases to the iron hospital when erected.

The Board having considered the applications for the office of temporary nurses appointed, upon the recommendation of Dr. Lynch, two of the assistants in the Cork-street Hospital, named Mary Kirwan and Mary Smyth, at the salary, and upon the terms fixed on at the meeting of the 17th ultimo, and directed that they enter upon discharge of their duties on Saturday next, or sooner if required.

Read letter from Dr. O'Donoghoe, Loughrea, dated 1st May 1875, stating that having in company with the sanitary sub-officer proceeded to Athenry, on the 20th ultimo, he was unable to procure a site for the iron hospital in the neighbourhood, and that Dr. Leonard refused to co-operate with him; also suggesting that in the appointment of nurses for attending on small-pox patients none from Loughrea be selected, lest they might by themselves or their friends bring the disease into this locality.

The clerk produced a telegram received from the contractors stating the hospital was ready, and that he this morning advised them (in the same manner) to forthwith dispatch it to Athenry; he further reported that he accompanied Mr. Toole on yesterday to Slieveroe regarding the site for the iron hospital, but the place, though suitable in other respects, laboured under the great drawback, want of water.

Dr. Brodie stated that he had that morning an interview with Dr. Leonard, who promised to give a site for the hospital in his own field in case the guardians are unable to procure a more suitable place, which offer was thankfully received by the Board; and relieving officer Lally was directed to superintend and take charge of the building on its arrival in Athenry.

An order was also made for the supply of 12 iron bedsteads and the required clothing, bedding, utensils, &c., to be sent over from the workhouse hospital, or purchased if such cannot be spared.

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— No. 45. —

(No. 9579—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
5 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland return herewith the papers referred to them on the 1st instant, relating to the recent outbreak of small-pox in the town of Athenry in Loughrea Union; and the Board have the honour to forward, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of observations made by their inspector, Dr. Brodie, on the subject, to whom the papers were referred for his information.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*,
Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.
Dublin Castle.

Enclosures in Foregoing.

(1.)—Dr. *Brodie's* Observations.

THE Local Government Board have been kept by me in full possession of all the incidents of the outbreak of small-pox at Athenry, and of the action of the board of guardians (as the sanitary authority) with reference thereto.

There can be no question of the importance of providing a suitable place for the separate treatment of those attacked with the disease. The objections of the board of guardians in the first instance, and the lawless burning of the workhouse van afterwards, prevented the workhouse from being available for the reception of those cases.

The opinion generally prevails that the burning of the workhouse van at Loughrea to exclude small-pox patients from the hospital, operates encouragingly to prevent the procuring of a site for the hospital elsewhere, the parties being allowed to pass unpunished.

The guardians are not, however, open to the charge of not endeavouring to provide accommodation for the treatment of small-pox patients. Three weeks since they sent an order to Messrs. Braby & Co. of London to supply an iron hospital (supposed to be ready for immediate delivery). Some delay occurred, but the contractors now report the structure to be ready for delivery. The guardians have instructed their architect, Mr. Keller, to superintend its erection, have provided iron bedsteads, bedding, &c., and have secured the services of two experienced nurses from Cork-street Hospital, Dublin, &c. &c.

The Athenry Dispensary Committee met on yesterday, and a site for the erection of the hospital was unanimously agreed to. This day I received a protest signed* by the parish priest, his curate, and 37 of the inhabitants of the town, stating that they intend to resist by every possible means in their power, the erection of a temporary hospital on the site selected by the committee.

* Protest herewith.

Thus we find ourselves thwarted in every step we take. The Loughrea people will not allow us to avail ourselves of the workhouse. The parish priest of Cranghwell and parishioners will not allow us to erect on the site given by Mr. J. Blake; and now the parish priest, his curate, and 37 of the inhabitants of Athenry, are up in arms against us.

I have directed a special meeting of the Athenry Dispensary Committee to be convened for Athenry, at which I hope to be present.

4 May 1875. *T. B.*

(2.)—PROTEST against Site selected for Iron Hospital.

Athenry, 4 May 1875.

Sir,

HAVING heard with surprise of the selection made to-day of a site for the iron hospital, we hasten to give you our views and determination. We do so thus hurriedly that there may be no delay in procuring another site, and erecting at once the hospital so much required.

We the people of Athenry, claim a right of commonage on the place selected to-day as a site for the hospital. We are in possession of that right and we will assert it. We feel and know the want of a local hospital accommodation: our sick are denied the medical relief the law provides for them; our streets are now deserted for some time on account of this sickness amongst us. We are suffering in many ways, and we feel that fixing this hospital almost in our midst, instead of lessening the evil, would be only continuing it. If there is any benefit

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benefit to be derived from this hospital, it is isolation. There is no quarter of the town more frequented than the common; it is convenient to our schools attended by about 150 of our children; it is a thoroughfare for laundry and other uses; it is near the old barrack, always a hot-bed of disease, and within a short distance of the post-office.

We want the hospital but we don't want to be as much mixed up with contagion as we are at present, and we would be in no better position than we are in now, if the hospital were fixed in the proposed site.

We will assert to the last our rights to the commonage, not from opposition to the hospital, but to remove the contagion from amongst us.

I totally disapprove of the appointed site for the hospital which ought to be, instead of the almost centre of the town, at least a quarter of a mile outside it.

(signed) *John O'Grady*, P.P., Athenry.
James Ronayne, C.C.
Robert Irvine.
Denis M. McDonagh.
Blackall McDonagh.
James Cloonan.
Patrick Dooly.
William Gill.
Michael Nolan.
James C. Swift.
Patrick Kinneen.
Matt. McDonagh.
Patt Barrett.
Joe Barrett.
James Gore.
John Stephen Dillon.
Morgan Fahy.
Thomas R. Kelly.
James Ryan.
Patrick Roche.
Laurence Lardner.
Martin Brodrick.
Patrick Mahon.
Michael Keane.
William Keane.
Anne Rushe, Post Mistress.
Pat. Dunleavy.
Richard Nolan.
Michael Kelly.
John Ryan.
John Colemun.
Mark Culkin.
James Pratt.
Michael McNamarra.
Thomas Cready.
James Lardner.
Edward O'Reilly.
James Downes.
Darby Fox, Post Office.

T. Brodie, Esq.,
Poor Law Inspector, Galway.

— No. 46. —

(No. 9580—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board Board, Dublin,
3 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland, forward to you herewith a file of papers which has been referred to them by the Under Secretary of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, relative to the prevalence of small-pox in the county of Galway, and the consequent postponement of the training of the Galway Regiment of Militia, in which the Board are requested to report should that disease abate, with a view to the training taking place in that event; and I am to request that you will be so good as to report to the Local Government Board immediately, should the disease abate, or any facts come to your knowledge tending to show that the necessity for suspending the training no longer exists.

You will be good enough to send back the enclosed papers when perused, in order that they may be returned to the Under Secretary.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*,
Secretary.

Dr. Brodie,
Local Government Inspector, Galway.

— No. 47. —

(No. 9751—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Galway, Wednesday Evening,
5 May 1875.

Gentlemen,

I REGRET to have to state that since date of my last report of 2nd instant, there have been nine fresh cases of small-pox in the town of Athenry, four members of one family, three of another, and one of each of two others.

The iron hospital not yet arrived; a special meeting of the dispensary committee called for 12 o'clock to-morrow. I hope to be present at it.

Doctor

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Doctor Duggan, medical officer, Lackagh Dispensary in the Galway Union, reports to me as follows:—

"Dear Sir, "Lackagh Dispensary, 4 May 1875.

"I beg to report to you that on this day I visited Louisa Fleming residing in a very neat cottage at Carrnilen, on the road leading from Athenry to Turloughmore, and found her affected with small-pox, the first case that has occurred in my district; please inform me what is best to be done.

"Yours, &c.
"(signed *Josh. Duggan.*"

I write by this post to Dr. Duggan, suggesting that he should isolate the case by the removal to an out-house, &c.

I have, &c.
The Local Government Board, (signed) *T. Brodie.*
Dublin.

— No. 48. —

(No. 9751—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
Sir, 7 May 1875.

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your communication of the 5th instant, informing them of the occurrence of nine fresh cases of small-pox in the town of Athenry, in the Loughrea Union, and of one case of the disease in the Turloughmore Dispensary District of the Galway Union.

By Order of the Board,
Dr. Brodie, Inspector, (signed) *B. Banks,*
Loughrea. Secretary.

— No. 49. —

(No. 9830—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 6 May 1875.

ADVERTING to my former reports on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry, I have now to state for your information, that the Roman Catholic clergymen of Athenry and some of its inhabitants, having protested against the erection of the iron hospital on the site selected by the dispensary committee on Monday last, I deemed it advisable to cause a special meeting of the committee to be convened for 12 o'clock to-day; five members, including the chairman and honorary secretary, attended the meeting. I explained to them the object for which they were called together, and the site selected being the only one in the locality, affording a proper supply of good water.

It was unanimously resolved,—

"That we see no reason to make any change in the resolution passed last Monday, recommending the waste plot in the town of Athenry as the fittest place procurable for the iron hospital, and as there are threats held out against its being allowed to be put up, we suggest the necessity of having those employed in its erection protected, and that instructions be given to the authorities here to that effect as otherwise there is no chance of preventing the spread of this formidable disease."

In view of the present state of the feelings and opinions of certain parties in the Loughrea Union, who, instead of assisting the authorities in their endeavours to obtain a site for the iron hospital, throw every obstacle in the way of bringing matters to a satisfactory issue, something definite must be done, and proper steps taken by those who administer the law to prevent the threats held out by those parties being acted upon and show them that they cannot, with impunity, violate the law, and that if they proceed from threats to violence, they will find to their cost that the arm of the law will be powerful enough to protect both the guardians and those whom they employ; otherwise, we may expect a repetition of the lawless outrage which was perpetrated by the mob in Loughrea. The instigators and perpetrators of this outrage have not been made amenable to justice, which, in my opinion, has acted encouragingly to prevent the procuring of a site for the erection of the iron hospital.

I regret to have to report the occurrence since last report of two fresh cases of the disease in Athenry.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

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I hope to be present at the meeting of the Longhrea Board of Guardians on next aturday.

Galway Union.

Dr. Duggan, Medical Officer of Lackagh Dispensary District, informs me that the small-pox patient in his district is progressing favourahly.

The Local Government Board, Duhlin. *T. B.*

— No. 50. —

(No. 9830—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Uuder Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
7 May 1875.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour, hy direction of the Local Government Board for Ireland, to transmit to yon, for the information of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying extract from a report which they have received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, on the subject of the outhreak of small-pox in the town of Athenry, Loughrea Union.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.
Duhlin Castle.

— No. 51. —

(No. 9830—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
7 May 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed hy the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your report of yesterday's date, respecting the outhreak of small-pox at Athenry, and I am to inform you that this, as well as previous reports, have been communicated to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Loughrea.

— No. 52. —

(No. 9921—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 7 May 1875.

SINCE date of my last report on the suhject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry, and the result of the proceedings of the special meeting of the Dispensary Committee on yesterday, I have to state for your information that the clerk of the union informed me that "shortly after the train for Galway had left, Father Ronayne, R.C.C., appeared on the scene, and having learned the final result of the meeting, stormed forth, and positively asserted that the hospital should not he huilt upon the commons of Athenry, let them go elsewhere; this gave courage to his auditors, who in a short time afterwards gave full vent to their feelings in angry expressions to the effect that the hospital should not he put np there, adding significantly, that they could do the same as the people of Loughrea did to the van."

I received a telegram at two o'clock to-day from Sub-Inspector Gardiner, Athenry, requesting to be informed "when the temporary hospital is expected to arrive, as he had received orders to protect it." I telegraphed in reply that the hospital was shipped in London on Wednesday last.

I leave in the morning for Loughrea to attend the Board's meeting.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board, Dublin.

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— No. 53. —

(No. 9921—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
8 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of a report which they have received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, in continuation of previous reports on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 54. —

(No. 9921—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
8 May 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your report of yesterday's date in continuation of previous reports on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry, which has been communicated to the Under Secretary for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector,
Galway.

— No. 55. —

(No. 10,015—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Galway, 9 May 1875.

Gentlemen,

I HAVE the honour to report that an influential meeting of the Loughrea Board of Guardians was held on yesterday. Lord Dunsandle in the chair.

The Board first took into consideration the principal business before them, namely, the iron hospital, and the site for its erection; and, having been furnished with copies of the minutes of the meetings held by the Athenry Dispensary Committee on the 3rd and 5th instant, the decisions arrived at on those occasions were fully discussed.

The place chosen by the committee for the site, namely, the waste plot of ground near the old barrack, and close to the river, was set aside when Major Lopdell mentioned that objections had been raised to erecting the hospital in that locality by the townspeople and others, their advisers, but that overtures had been made to him on the part of Mr. W. P. Lambert, and of Mr. Irvine, the occupying tenant, for getting a part of a field in the neighbourhood of the town as a site for the hospital, and having mentioned the conditions and rent, 20 *l.*, Mr. Keller, a skilled tradesman in Loughrea, was called before the Board, and his views requested thereon; the result of Mr. Keller's interview with the Board being that so many objectionable features in the way of stringent conditions on the part of the landlord, probable scarcity of skilled hands, cost of erection 75 *l.*, and, above all, the absolute necessity, under the present trying ordeal, of effecting some measures without delay, presented themselves, that the Board was at a loss how to act or provide for the immediate relief of the poor people affected with this terrible disease. Mr. Keller would not engage to have the iron hospital erected before the expiration of 12 or 14 days.

In this dilemma Mr. Burton Persse produced a letter received by him from Mr. Irvine, making an offer of the house in which he resides, which could be in one or two days made available for the reception of small-pox patients, and stating the terms upon which it would be given. Major Lopdell, chairman, Dispensary Committee, Mr. Hennelly, honorary secretary, and other members of the Board who knew the locality and the place indicated, pronounced it most suitable for the purpose, and urged upon the Board the advisability of at once accepting Mr. Irvine's proposal, and closing the bargain. The guardians did as they had been recommended, and authorised Mr. Persse, on their behalf, to enter into treaty with Mr. Irvine for the immediate possession of the house and converting it into a temporary hospital. Directions were given to send bed, bedding, clothing, cooking

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cooking utensils, &c. Arrangements are also ordered to be entered into with a respectable baker, butcher, and grocer in Athenry for the supply of the required provisions, stimulants, and other necessaries to the hospital, and the iron building intended for Athenry was directed to be taken into Longhrea, and set up as soon as convenient on the workhouse grounds, by which it is expected the guardians can dispense with the fever hospital therein, which some short time ago they had proposed should be constructed for the reception of fever and other infectious cases.

On my way home from Loughrea on yesterday, I visited Mr. Irvine's house; it is situated about a quarter of a mile from the town, quite secluded, with a field attached to it, and is in every way suitable for the purpose.

The guardians passed a resolution in strong terms condemnatory of the lawless acts perpetrated in Loughrea in the burning of the van on the 19th ultimo, and calling upon the Government for a searching inquiry into the origin and cause of this uncalled-for occurrence, and with the view of making the chief actors therein amenable to justice.

Two fresh cases of small-pox in Athenry since date of last report; one death.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board,
Ireland.

— No. 56. —

(No. 10,015—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
10 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward to you, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of a report which they have this day received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, in continuation of previous reports, on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,* Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 57. —

(No. 10,015—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
11 May 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 9th instant, on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry. This report has also been communicated to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,* Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector,
Galway.

— No. 58. —

(No. 10,076—75.)

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians on 8th May 1875.

THE Board having referred to the attack made upon the workhouse van in Loughrea on the 19th ultimo, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Persse, seconded by Major Lopdell, and carried:

"That we wish to express our condemnation of the great outrage committed by some parties in the town of Loughrea, in deliberately and wilfully setting fire to and burning the hospital van of the Union Workhouse; and we request that the occurrence may be made the subject of an official inquiry by the Government."

The Board proceeded to enter into particulars and make arrangements for the site of the iron hospital, which had been lately promised by Mr. Irvine, near Athenry town, but it appearing that obstacles would arise and difficulties ensue, as also delay in completing same—

Mr.

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Mr. Persse produced a letter from Mr. Irvine consenting to let a house very suitable for an hospital, upon certain conditions, namely, at a rent of 150 *l.* for one year to 1st May 1876, or 100 *l.* to 1st November next, which offer was accepted, and Mr. Persse requested to treat with Mr. Irvine accordingly, and arrange that possession may be had thereof with the least possible delay, so that the patients be received therein immediately after. The workhouse officers to see that the required bedding, clothing, utensils, &c., shall be provided, and also that arrangements be made in Athenry for the supply of provisions, necessaries, &c., to the hospital.

— No. 59 —

(No. 10,116—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Tuam, 10 May 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report for your information that the case of the Queen *v.* P. Corcoran, for wilfully exposing William Burke, whilst "suffering from small-pox, without proper precaution against the spread of the disease," came on for hearing to-day before Captain Ball, R.M., and a full bench of magistrates.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. O'Loughlin, S.C.S., Mr. Henderson, solicitor, appeared for Corcoran. Dr. Turner proved to having visited William Burke on Monday the 1st March in Corcoran's house; Burke was in bed labouring under small-pox, the eruption was fully out on him; saw P. Corcoran, told him that Burke had small-pox, and advised his removal to hospital.

John Burke, railway porter, examined: saw Corcoran and Burke at the railway station on Monday the 1st March; saw Corcoran give Burke a railway ticket, and saw Burke get into the railway carriage.

John Hore, railway guard, and another of the railway assistants, gave similar evidence.

Doctor Leonard visited William Burke on the night of Monday the 1st March, he was then suffering from malignant small-pox. Mr. Henderson raised some frivolous points; Corcoran was fined 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, or, in default, one month's imprisonment.

I have, &c.

The Local Government Board, (signed) *T. Brodie.*
Dublin.

— No. 60. —

(No. 10,267—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 12 May 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 3rd inst., No. 9580—75,* forwarding a file of papers from the Under Secretary to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, relative to the prevalence of small-pox in the county of Galway, having regard to the propriety of assembling the Galway militia for the annual training and drill, and requesting from me a further report on the subject. * No. 46.

In reply, I beg to state that the disease has not abated since the 2nd April, the date of my previous report. In the localities then mentioned as infected, new cases have since occurred showing it has not disappeared. It has not, however, made any serious progress, except at Athenry.

There have been altogether 40 cases in that town and neighbourhood, of whom eight died, nine recovered, and 23 remain under treatment. The position of Athenry, in its proximity to Loughrea, and as a centre to which a great number of the militiamen must converge, render those facts of serious consideration.

In Tuam there had been a lull in the disease, but last week there were two or three cases; some deaths occurred.

A case occurred in the person of a drover, who passed through Athenry to his home half-way to Mountbellew, and died.

Within a few weeks past, three cases occurred in Dunmore (Tuam Union), two at Abbey (Tuam Union), one in the Galway Union, not far from Athenry, and five or six at a place called Rusmuck, in the Oughterard Union.

Save at Athenry, the disease has assumed no formidable proportions in this county, and many of the principal towns lately visited by me, are still free from it; such as Galway, Gort, Loughrea, Portumna, Oughterard, Clifden, &c.

It cannot be overlooked that the disease is more or less prevalent over many parts of the county, and that there is danger in the assembling of such a miscellaneous collection as the Galway militia. I am bound to add, that small-pox appears to be increasing in virulence and fatal results.

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It is worthy of consideration, that the hospital accommodation of the Loughrea barracks is very limited (not more than six or eight beds), that the Board of Guardians have not a detached hospital to be availed of, and that in case of an outbreak of small-pox amongst the men, there would be no proper place for treating them.

It is to my mind clear that further postponement of the assembling of the regiment is advisable, and there is, therefore, the contingency to be considered, whether it should not be abandoned for this year.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie,*
Local Government Inspector.

The Local Government Board,
Dublin.

— No. 61. —

(No. 9580-75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
13 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland return herewith the file of papers referred to them on the 30th ultimo, relative to the prevalence of small-pox in the county of Galway, as bearing on the propriety of assembling the Galway militia regiment for the annual training and drill; and they desire at the same time to forward to you for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a report which they have this day received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, on the subject, from which it appears that he considers the further postponement of the assembling of the regiment advisable, and that there is, therefore, the contingency to be considered whether it should not be abandoned for this year.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 62. —

(No. 10,267-75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
13 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, reporting on the prevalence of small-pox in the county of Galway, having regard to the propriety of assembling the Galway militia regiment for the annual training and drill.

The Board have communicated your report to the Under Secretary for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

Dr. Brodie Inspector,
Galway.

— No. 63 —

(No. 10,611-75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen,

Galway, 17 May 1875.

I REGRET to have to report the occurrence of four fresh cases of small-pox and three deaths in the town of Athenry since date of my last report 12th instant.

Number of cases from 1st March to 17th May, 44,—

Died, 11; recovered, 13; still under treatment, 20.

I visited the hospital to-day; there are 18 beds fitted up, four are occupied, four others will be occupied before night; the only delay to the immediate transmission of the patients arises from the difficulty, nay, impossibility of getting any person to horse the covered car; I recommended Dr. Leonard to purchase a strong donkey or mule for the purpose; the doctor is indefatigable in his exertions, and has a vast deal to contend with; the panic is so great, that the butcher, the only one in the town, refuses to supply meat to

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to the hospital; I hope to be able to attend the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Saturday next.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board,
Dublin.

— No. 64. —

(No. 10,611–75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board,
22 May 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your report of the 17th instant, on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector,
Galway.

— No. 65. —

(11,025—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

(Received, 24th May 1875.)

Gentlemen, Galway.

I HAVE the honour to report for your information, that I was present at the weekly meeting of the Loughrea Board of Guardians held on yesterday, the 22nd instant. Lord Dunsandle in the chair.

The important matter of small-pox in Athenry occupied a considerable portion of their time.

I informed the Board the result of my own personal experience there that morning, and the undoubted fact of a daily increase in the numbers affected with small-pox, and the virulent form it has assumed, that from the pressure of applicants requiring treatment the hospital is incapable of accommodating the present large number of patients, or allow any room for future cases that may arise, there being in the hospital 18 patients, and eight outside awaiting removal; I may here observe, with a view to show the necessity for removal to hospital, that of the above 18, nine are members of three families; namely, three Murphys, three O'Briens, and three Coppingers.

I advised the Board to have one of the offices attached to the hospital put in a proper state of repair for the reception of such patients as cannot be received into the permanen house, and explained to them that there was no time to be lost in adopting some effective measures.

The guardians adopted my suggestion, and asked me when passing through Athenry, on my way to Galway, to treat with some party there to have the additions and alterations required to the office in question effected, so that sufficient room be had for any number of cases likely to suffer from the disease. I have arranged with Dr. Leonard to meet me at the hospital to-morrow.

The guardians directed the workhouse officers to forthwith dispatch to Athenry a supply of shirts, chemises, &c., for use of the patients, and moreover drew their attention to the necessity of not losing any time, upon receipt of a requisition from Dr. Leonard, in using all means in their power to meet the wants of the patients there; at my suggestion a number of filled bed-ticks was also ordered to be got ready and forwarded, and before I left the workhouse they were sent in charge of one of the inmates.

I advised that the disinfecting apparatus lately procured be transmitted to Athenry, where it may be put to some use and advantage. An order in accordance therewith was made, and the master directed to have it sent there on Monday.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

The Local Government Board,
Custom House, Dublin.

Six fresh cases on yesterday; four deaths during week.

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— No 66. —

(No. 11,025—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
24 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland forward, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying copy of a report which they have this day received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, in continuation of former reports on the subject of the outbreak of small-pox at Athenry.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 67. —

(No. 11,025—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
24 May 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt this day of a report, in continuation of former reports by you, on the subject of the outbreak of small-pox at Athenry.

Your report has been communicated to the Under Secretary for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

Dr. Brodie, Inspector,
Galway.

— No. 68. —

(No. 11,108—75.)

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians on 22nd May 1875.

READ letter from Dr. Leonard, dated 19th May 1875, requesting to have forwarded some sheets and articles of underclothing, stating that being unable to procure a horse in Athenry for the covered car, he had to purchase a donkey and cart for the sum of 4 *l.* 5 *s.*, and to have the patients removed to hospital at night.

Dr. Brodie having stated the result of his personal knowledge of the increase of small-pox in Athenry, and the great pressure upon the hospital accommodation there, he was requested to have arrangements made, on his return, for fitting up one of the out-offices as an auxiliary to the hospital, and at his suggestion a further supply of bedding and clothing was forthwith dispatched to Athenry, and the workhouse officers directed to carefully attend for the future to any requisition of the like, which Dr. Leonard may make upon them.

Another assistant nurse was ordered to be employed, as also a messenger, and the disinfecting apparatus to be sent over on Monday next to Athenry and kept for use there.

As regards the expenditure to be incurred, the Board agreed to charge to the Athenry electoral division for each of the small-pox patients received into hospital, only the weekly average rate per head of the cost in this workhouse hospital, namely, about 7 *d.* per day, and that all other items, as rent, furniture, salaries, &c., should be charged to the union at large, and assessed in proportion to the net annual value of each electoral division.

Dr. Leonard was requested to keep an account of the articles received and consumed in hospital, according to the forms submitted by the clerk, and a return thereof to be laid before the Board at each meeting.

Upon the application of Major Lopdell, a cheque for 5 *l.* was drawn, compensation agreed to be paid to a washerwoman who has suffered in her calling, in consequence of the proximity of the small-pox hospital to her dwelling-house.

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— No. 69. —

(No. 11,495—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 30 May 1875.

I WAS present at the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union on yesterday. Lord Dunsandle in the chair. The principal business transacted, as at previous meetings, had reference to the small-pox at Athenry.

I reported to the Board the spread of the disease, 75 cases from 1st March to the 29th May; 16 deaths, 20 recoveries, 24 in hospital, 15 under treatment outside. Of the 24 in hospital, 9 are convalescent, the remaining 15 progressing favourably.

A letter was read from Dr. Leonard calling attention to the want of sufficient hospital accommodation for the number of small-pox patients requiring treatment therein. I explained the difficulty we had to contend with as we were unable to induce any of the tradesmen of Athenry to venture on the hospital grounds for the purpose of getting one of the out-offices fitted up as an auxiliary. Failing in Athenry to procure skilled hands for this object, Mr. Keller of Loughrea offered his services to carry out the work, but at the last moment he also declined, alleging opposition on the part of his family, and dread of carrying the disease from Athenry to Loughrea. The Board directed the clerk to communicate with Mr. Irvine and offer liberal terms if he would consent to take this matter in hand, and put the office in question into proper order, and that the sum he would be entitled to could be left to Major Lopdell and Mr. Burton Persse, the two guardians who had before negotiated as to the terms upon which the guardians and himself would deal in regard to the present small-pox hospital, and that as this was a case of necessity, no time should be lost in commencing operations, and making the additional space available for the calls which would soon be made upon it.

I also adverted to the mode of conveying the patients to hospital by means of a donkey and cart, and expressed my objection to this course. The Board directed that Dr. Leonard be authorised to purchase a horse in Athenry and to use the covered car in future for such purposes. The Board promised every assistance in combating and endeavouring to guard against the effects of this dire disease, and ended by giving a somewhat practical proof of their appreciation of Dr. Leonard's services by an influential member handing in a notice of his intention to "move at the meeting of the 12th proximo, that the doctor's salary be increased as a recompense due to him for his extra duties."

I have, &c.

The Local Government Board, Dublin. (signed) *T. Brodie.*

— No. 70. —

(No. 11,495—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
31 May 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland forward for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the accompanying extract from a report which they have this day received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, relating to the outbreak of small-pox at Athenry in the Loughrea Union.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Dublin Castle.

— No. 71. —

(No. 11,495—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
2 June 1875.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your report of the 30th ultimo, relating to the prevalence of small-pox at Athenry.

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This report, as in previous cases, has been communicated to the Under Secretary for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*,
Secretary.

To Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

— No. 72. —

(No. 11,548—75.)

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians on 29th May 1875.

READ letter from Dr. Leonard, dated 28th May 1875, drawing attention to the overcrowded state of the small-pox hospital in Athenry.

The Board having taken this matter into consideration, Dr. Brodie recommended that Mr. Irvine be at once communicated with, and requested to take in hand the fitting up of the out-office as an auxiliary; he also stated the great objection to the present manner of conveying the patients to hospital in a donkey-cart, and suggested the advisability of procuring a horse for the covered car.

The Board approved of the foregoing.

The clerk to write to-night to Mr. Irvine, urging his acceptance of a contract for executing the necessary repairs to the out-office, and that the sum to be allowed him would be left to the decision of Major Lopdell and Mr. B. R. P. Persse.

Dr. Leonard, with the assistance of relieving officer Lally, to make inquiries in Athenry and its neighbourhood, and negociate the purchase of a horse for the covered car, and use same in future instead of the donkey and cart.

— No. 73. —

(No. 12,597—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 13 June 1875.

THERE was a large attendance of guardians at the weekly meeting held on yesterday the 12th instant; Lord Dunsandle in the chair.

The cause of the meeting being better attended than ordinary was the notice given by Major Daly on the 29th ultimo, that he would move on the 12th of June that Dr. Leonard's salary be increased, and accordingly when the questions appeared on the "business paper" for consideration, he moved "that Dr. Leonard's salary be increased by 100 *l.* in consideration of the onerous and responsible duties he has to perform attending on the present small-pox hospital in Athenry, as well as the several cases that had occurred outside, the increase to be for one year from 1st March 1875 to 1st March 1876."

The motion was seconded by P. Blake, Esq., and passed without one dissentient voice.

In passing this resolution for an increase to Dr. Leonard's salary of 100 *l.* for one year from 1st March 1875 to 1st March 1876, the guardians appeared to have taken this course as an act of justice, and of making some recompense for the loss sustained by him in his private capacity as physician and surgeon, and his public position as medical officer of a dispensary district and attendant upon a small-pox hospital.

In the first instance, his private practice was altogether nought when it had become known that he was attending upon and in close proximity to patients labouring under this dreadful disease; the pecuniary loss thus suffered by Dr. Leonard must have been considerable, as his former patients had to request the attendance of a medical practitioner from Loughrea or Galway.

As a public officer, he had to devote many weary hours to the several and oft-repeated calls made upon him day and night, and more than one member of the Board referred to circumstances which had come under his own immediate notice, in which Dr. Leonard performed his onerous and responsible duties during this trying ordeal with care and attention to the sick poor under his charge, and a self-denial of comfort, or any sort of pleasure or relaxation on his own part, joined to the fact that Dr. Leonard, in his domestic affairs, had endured his own share of trouble and loss in the case of a member of his family who had been for weeks suffering from the disease contracted, as is supposed, through the agency of the doctor attending small-pox cases outside, and thus bringing the disease into his own household. All these circumstances were fully weighed by the Board, and they considered that only an act of justice was being done, in thus granting him a liberal addition to his salary for one year, and they accordingly requested the Local Government Board's sanction to their acts on this occasion.

Relieving officer Lally having had a number of cases entered upon his application and report

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report book as provisional relief granted by him to able-bodied men and their families, I called the chairman's attention to the law of relief in those several instances, and to the proper parties whom the Poor Laws Relief Extension Act authorised to receive relief outside the workhouse, the Board, upon inquiry into the several cases appearing thereon, disallowed a large sum, being out-door relief given by the relieving officer to able-bodied applicants and their families. To this the attention of the auditor will have to be called.

The sewerage works recommended by Mr. Kempster in Athenry were referred to the Dispensary Committee, with a request that they be commenced without delay, so as to afford employment to the labouring classes, and at the same time improve the sanitary condition of the town. It has been ascertained that those portions of the town that were drained some few years since have escaped the disease, while the streets that were undrained have suffered severely from the outbreak. I go to Athenry on Tuesday to meet the Dispensary Committee.

The small-pox is on the decline in Athenry. No fresh case on the 8th, one case on the 9th, three admitted into hospital on yesterday from the rural districts. Thirty-three cases in hospital; of this number 28 are out of danger and convalescing. It is to be hoped that, with close attention to the whitewashing, cleansing, and disinfecting the houses, together with the supply of clothes, bedticks, and fresh straw, which are to be given to the patients leaving hospital through the benevolence of a few charitable ladies who have raised a fund for the purpose, the disease will soon be got under.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

To the Local Government Board,
Dublin.

No. 74.

(No. 12,597—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
15 June 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your Report of the 13th instant, relating to the proceedings of the guardians of the Loughrea Union, on the previous day, in connexion with the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry and other matters.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

To Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

No. 75.

(No. 12,681—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Galway, 14 June 1875.

Gentlemen,

SINCE penning my report of yesterday's date, my attention has been called to an editorial article, appearing in the issue of the "Irish Times," of Friday last, the 11th June, founded, as is stated, upon a recent visit made by their special correspondent to this part of the country, and his report upon the outbreak of small-pox in the unions of Tuam and Loughrea.

As the principal part thereof is devoted to matters affecting the latter union, it may be well to confine my observations at present solely to the state of affairs existing in the village of Athenry, which is situate in the union of Loughrea.

It is set forth by the editor in his comments that they are written with the object of moderating and allaying the feelings of panic and terror which the public outside and parties at a distance would be made believe possess all classes in the neighbourhood of Athenry, where it is described as being without trade, commerce, or industry, the well-to-do inhabitants fleeing out of it as if from a plague-stricken spot; and where they chance to take up their temporary abode, on the fact becoming known, the residents of those places driving them back again; moreover, that fear has established a cordon as effective as a blockade around the village.

If with such views the paragraph in question had been penned, it signally failed in its effects; for in the first instance it may be observed that at the worst and most trying period of the epidemic, Athenry was not in the hopeless condition which the statement in the "Irish Times" would lead one to believe existed at the period of the recent visit of its special

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special correspondent; and at present the disease has assumed a mild form, with a marked falling off in the number of cases.

I may here observe that the respectable members of the community who are aware of the entire circumstances, and have acquired from local knowledge and experience competency to express a decisive opinion, all fully agree that with the introduction of small-pox into the neighbourhood, nothing else has tended more to injure the prospects of the town of Athenry, or interfere with the business or calling of its inhabitants, than the sensational news which have been from time to time sent to the public papers in the form of letters from known and unknown correspondents, parties who are desirous of having their views appearing in print, and will not hesitate to exaggerate or distort facts to suit their own purposes, the result being to cause unnecessary alarm and terror in the minds of people at a distance, and prevent them resorting where their business might require their presence.

As the action of the local authorities is called to account in the article in the "Irish Times," I will briefly give a resumé of the introduction of small-pox into the union, and the steps taken by the Board of Guardians, upon whom the duty devolved, for making provisions for the proper reception and treatment of the sick, and adopting other measures to guard against and prevent the spread of the disease.

Small-pox, as is pretty well known, was introduced into this union early in March last by a young man named Burke who had been in the employment of a baker in the town of Tuam where he contracted the disease, and thence sent by his employer home to his father's house in Tyaquin, within five miles of Athenry, and in a short time after he died; unfortunately the clergyman who attended him was the Rev. Mr. Walshe, the Roman Catholic curate of Athenry, and he also caught the disease, and after a short illness succumbed, and became the second victim, and through him the disease was carried into the village of Athenry, where in a short time it spread rapidly.

Immediately upon an account of the outbreak becoming known to the central authority, the attention of the Board of Guardians was called to the necessity of adopting all due precautions, and forthwith making arrangements for the hospital accommodation of those small-pox patients requiring treatment therein. The suggestion was acted upon, and an iron hospital, ordered from the Messrs. Braby of London, at a cost, including carriage, &c., of near 300 *l.* Some delay having occurred in procuring a convenient site for the hospital in the neighbourhood of Athenry, negotiations were opened with Mr. R. Irvine for the renting of his house, the result being that the guardians agreed to pay the sum of 100 *l.* for the use and occupation of the house up to the 1st November, or 150 *l.* if required for six months longer. Possession thereof was immediately obtained, and in a few days the place was fully and completely fitted up and converted into an hospital, and patients removed in at once.

Lately the accommodation being found rather limited, and a convalescent room much required, one of the out-offices was fitted up and made to answer the purpose of an auxiliary. The hospital in question is situate in a pleasant airy position with a neat commodious lawn, and isolated from any other habitation. The guardians sent over from the parent house a large supply of bed, bedding, clothing, cooking utensils, &c., and purchased articles of which they had not a stock; they moreover authorised and ordered their officers to forthwith attend to any requisition which the medical attendant, Dr. Leonard, made to them for any additional supplies he might require. The services of two skilled nurses were secured from the Cork Street Hospital at the first appearance of the disease, and they have been doing duty at the hospital since it was opened; they had had long experience attending small-pox patients at the period of the outbreak in Dublin some few years ago, and from all accounts are well fitted for their position; an assistant is also allowed to them for washing, cooking, &c.

The Board have also provided a covered car and horse for the removal of patients to hospital, and a driver is employed and paid 12 *s.* 6 *d.* a week, as also an assistant relieving officer for Athenry town at 15 *s.* a week.

The medical officer, Dr. Leonard, has given general satisfaction by his care and attention to the patients under his charge, and as a recognition of his services the Guardians, at their last meeting, voted him 100 *l.* as an increase to his salary for one year.

The hospital is supplied by parties in Athenry, and no restrictions placed upon the medical officer, who has full and ample powers to order in whatever he may require for his patients in the way of provisions and stimulants of the best quality, and in no hospital are the wants and desires of the occupants better attended to, or their wishes anticipated than the present abode of those poor afflicted creatures, and I have no doubt that it will be hereafter acknowledged that those upon whom the duty devolved were not backward or sparing of their time or money in providing for the care and comfort of the sick poor placed under their authority.

As regards the alleged distress amongst the labouring classes, and the threats of levying by main force from the rich, and making "sheep and cattle raids," it must be observed that this part of the statement in the "Irish Times" is without foundation. Farmers and others at a distance certainly object to hire labourers from Athenry, but in their own immediate neighbourhood employment is not restricted, and in a short time it is expected the Board of Guardians will commence the sewerage works in Athenry so as to afford additional means of livelihood. Moreover, the relieving officer has been instructed to fully and amply exercise his powers of issuing provisional relief in every case of sudden and urgent necessity; and at the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Saturday last 58 cases,

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cases, representing 159 individuals, appeared on his books as having been relieved by him in Athenry during the week. A fund has been formed, and subscriptions collected by some charitably disposed ladies in the locality, and already over 100 *l.* has been received by them, so that under all the circumstances there is no ground for apprehending that the poor people will resort to the extreme measures hinted by the special correspondent.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to observe that small-pox in its mildest form is a disease to be feared and dreaded, and in this instance, coming on as it did suddenly and unexpectedly, and to a great extent unprepared for, the effects of its visitation, still, that no time was lost in taking measures to combat against its ravages and use all legitimate means to isolate the cases; and it is now hoped that the worst stages have passed, and that for the future more cheering and satisfactory reports can be made, of not alone the patients under treatment, but that it will be soon announced that the present, like other epidemics, will have disappeared altogether from Athenry and its neighbourhood, and that it will be found the mortality has not been greater on this occasion than it had been during the period of the epidemic in Dublin and elsewhere a few years ago.

I have, &c.
To the Local Government Board, Dublin. (signed) *T. Brodie.*

— No. 76. —

(No. 12,681—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
Sir, 15 June 1875.

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward to you herewith, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, a copy of a communication which they have received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, in reference to an editorial article which appeared in the "Irish Times" newspaper of the 11th instant on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox in Athenry.

By Order of the Board,
T. H. Burke, Esq., (signed) *B. Banks,*
&c. &c. Secretary.
Dublin Castle.

— No. 77. —

(No. 12,681—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
Sir, 16 June 1875.

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date in reference to an editorial article which appeared in the "Irish Times" newspaper of the 11th instant on the subject of the prevalence of small-pox at Athenry; and the Board have to acquaint you that they have communicated your letter to the Under Secretary for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant.

By Order of the Board,
To Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway. (signed) *B. Banks,*
Secretary.

— No. 78. —

(No. 13,629—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Athenry, Monday, 28 June 1875.

I HAVE much pleasure in reporting that there has been no fresh case of small-pox in the Athenry district during the past three days, and that a considerable number of the patients now in hospital are convalescing favourably.

I have, &c.
To the Local Government Board, (signed) *T. Brodie.*
Custom House, Dublin.

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COPY of LETTER from Dr. *French* to Dr. *Brodie*, annexed to foregoing.

Abbey Dispensary District, Monivea,
25 June 1875.

Dear Sir,

I WAS premature in reporting this district free from small-pox; I discovered a case to-day from the unusual number that came to be vaccinated, they having stated a case of small-pox existed in the village, a very populous and poor one (Feigh). I went there, and found a boy named Murphy 11 days lying ill from the disease, which was not reported to me; in fact they had three labouring under the disease, from the dread of having them removed to the workhouse.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *Digby French.*

To Dr. Brodie,
Local Government Inspector.

No. 79.

(No. 13,629—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
29 June 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward, for the information of their Excellencies the Lords Justices, the accompanying copy of a communication which they have this day received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, on the subject of small-pox in the Loughrea and Tuam Unions.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks.*

To T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.
Dublin Castle.

No. 80.

(No. 13,629—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie.*

Local Government Board, Dublin,
29 June 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have received your report of the 28th instant, on the subject of small-pox in the Loughrea and Tuam Union.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks,* Secretary.

To Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

— No. 81. —

(No. 13,488—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen,

Galway. 25 June 1875.

HAVING within the past few days made particular inquiry into the prevalence of small-pox in that portion of my district comprised in the county of Galway, I think it not inopportune to inform you of the result which is set forth in the appended statement. With the sole exception of Athenry, the state of the county of Galway, as regards that disease, is now satisfactory.

Loughrea Union.—Athenry District.

Number of cases from 1st March to 21st June - - -	141
Number of cases during past week - - - - - -	12
Number at present in hospital - - - - - - -	35

Save in Athenry, no case has occurred in the Loughrea Union.

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Tuam Union.—Tuam District.

Total number of cases, say - - - - - - -	70
Now in hospital, quite convalescent - - - - - -	6

No new cases for 10 days past.

Tuam Union.—Dunmore District.

Total number of cases - - - - - - - -	28
Under treatment, convalescent - - - - - - -	1

No new case for 10 days past.

Tuam Union.—Abbey District.

Total number of cases - - - - - - - -	14

No fresh case since 1st April.

Mount Bellew Union.—Mount Bellew District.

One case only occurred so far back as 9th May last.

Oughterard Union.—Clonbur District.

Total number of cases - - - - - - - -	2

No new case since March last.

Ballinasloe Union—No case.
Gort Union.—No case.
Portumna Union.—No case.
Clifden Union.—No case.

Galway Union.—One case near Athenry during past month.

Were it not for the unfortunate outbreak at Athenry, the county could be said to be free from the disease.

I find that the Chairman of Quarter Sessions has postponed the holding of sessions at Tuam, which had been fixed for the 17th instant, in view of the danger from the supposed prevalence of small-pox.

I mention the fact not with the purpose of commenting upon it, but in reference to the approaching Galway assizes.

The town of Galway is and has been for years past exempt from any case of small-pox, and of course no danger can be apprehended by any person whose business may bring him from that source.

There is to be sure some chance, more or less, of its importation from the gathering of people from places where it may be present. The more proximate source of danger is from Athenry, for, practically speaking, the rest of the county is now free from the disease. Yet, looking at the unrestrained assemblage of people at county fairs, I cannot think that the holding of the summer assizes should be specially dangerous. Precaution is no doubt wholesome, but unnecessary alarm has serious disadvantage.

I am, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*
Half-past seven o'clock p.m.

Since penning the foregoing, Dr. Leonard has telegraphed to me as follows:—
"In Athenry, three new cases; rural district, three cases.
"The above six cases occurred on yesterday, 24th instant."

T. B.

— No. 82. —

(No. 13,488—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
26 June 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward, for the information of their Excellencies the Lords Justices, the accompanying copy of a report, dated 25th

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25th instant, which they have received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, stating the result of inquiries which he has made within the last few days into the prevalence of small-pox in that portion of his district comprised in the county of Galway.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*,
Secretary.

To T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c.
Dublin Castle.

— No. 83. —

(No. 13,488—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
26 June 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your report of yesterday's date, stating the result of inquiries which you have made within the last few days into the prevalence of small-pox in that portion of your district comprised in the county of Galway.

The Board have directed that your report be communicated to the Under Secretary, for the information of their Excellencies the Lords Justices.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*,
Secretary.

To Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

— No. 84. —

(No. 14,091—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Gentlemen, Galway, 4 July 1875.

AT the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Loughrea Union, held on yesterday the 3rd instant, in the chair, Major B. Daly. Amongst the business before the Board was a further letter from Mr. R. Irvine, the party who had set the house in Athenry, now used as a small-pox hospital, stating that he considered himself entitled to the full sum claimed by him at last meeting, namely, 135 *l.* 10 *s.*, for fitting up the auxiliary, and hinting that unless paid on or before Monday the 5th July, he would take steps to enforce its recovery. The several members present deemed his demand altogether excessive, and directed that he be called on to furnish bill of particulars for materials and labour, and postponed the consideration of the matter until next meeting.

The Board having adverted to communications which have lately appeared in the columns of the public press setting forth the dreadful effects of the present epidemic in Athenry, and detailing the harrowing scenes alleged to have been witnessed in that village, particularly those referred to in a letter addressed to the "London Times" by a party signing himself "M. P.," and copied into the "Freeman's Journal" of Thursday last, I explained to them all the circumstances of the Boyles, whose names have been so prominently put before the public in the communication in question, and from the medical officer's statement to me of the facts of the case, corroborated by the relieving officer of the district, a great deal of the romance and fiction attendant on productions of this kind has been taken away from M.P's. sensational account of his visit of the 25th ultimo to Athenry, and to a great degree injured and interfered with his claim to be reckoned amongst the novelists of this day, taking "De Foe," whom he had quoted as his guide and director.

The Local Government Board, Custom House,
Dublin.

The true state of this affair is fully described in his communication to me of which the following is a copy:—

"Dear Sir, "Athenry Dispensary, 3 July 1875.

"IN reply to your letter of inquiry respecting the family of the Boyles, and the circumstances attending the funeral of the youngest child, I beg to state that immediately on the death of this child I ordered a coffin myself, and sent assistant relieving officer Glynn to see to the grave being dug so that there would be no delay to the interment.

The

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The neighbours attended and were waiting for the funeral when the mother whipped up the coffin and carried it a short distance, when it was taken from her by a man named Flynn, who carried it to the churchyard and deposited it in the grave previously prepared by the assistant relieving officer.

"As to the allegation that the sister, who is described as 16 years of age, but in reality only 12, she never left the door of her mistress's house, and therefore could not have carried the coffin containing the remains of her infant sister to the graveyard. Neither is it true, as alleged, that her remains were placed in the same grave with her sister within 48 hours afterwards. She was in hospital four or five days before she died, and was two days with Mrs. McTigue, her mistress, before admission to hospital; nor did she at all come to her mother's house until the morning of her removal to hospital. So much for those sensational letters."

(signed) "*H. Leonard.*"

"To Dr. Brodie, Local Government Inspector."

M. P. might have stated that although the relieving officer lives a distance of five or six miles from Athenry, an assistant was appointed upon the first outbreak of small-pox, delegated with the full powers of his principal, and whose sphere of duty was altogether confined to the village of Athenry, in order that any pressing case occurring therein should be at once attended to, and that this officer still exercises those functions exclusively there.

I brought under the notice of the Board the present arrangements for the medical attendance in Athenry and its district, and referred to the amount of labour one man has to go through, and the well-known objection of many parties in the locality in coming in close proximity or in contact with one who had probably a short time before left the bedside of a small-pox patient. The Board fully agreed with me, but before taking any definite step towards remedying or altering the present state of affairs, they directed the clerk of the Union to communicate with Dr. Leonard and ascertain for them against next meeting whether he still considers himself fully capable, and in a position to meet all the calls made upon him in his capacity as dispensary doctor and medical attendant at the small-pox hospital, and if he be still physically able to get through the onerous and pressing demands upon his time and skill, singly, and without the assistance of another practitioner. What steps the Board may take in this matter will in a great measure depend upon the reply Dr. Leonard will make to the queries addressed to him.

Doctor Leonard writes to me as follows:—

"Dear Sir, "Athenry Dispensary, 3 July 1875.

"My attention having been called to the exaggerated statements regarding the outbreak of small-pox in Athenry, I think it well to inform you, for the information of the Local Government Board, that from Monday the 28th ultimo, the day of your last visit to the hospital, there have been only two fresh cases in Athenry, and one in the neighbourhood, which have been removed to hospital. I have this night in hospital 35 patients, 23 of whom are able to be amusing themselves on the grounds, eight more are out of all danger, and four, though doubtful, are progressing favourably. This I think the best answer that can be given to the sensational letters which during the past week appeared in the public press.

(signed) "*H. Leonard.*"

"To Dr. Brodie, Local Government Inspector."

Monday, 5 July 1875.

I RECEIVED a telegram this morning from Dr. Leonard, requesting me to come out by next train to Athenry as he wanted me particularly.

I left by the half-past 11 o'clock train, and on my arrival Dr. Leonard informed me as follows:—

"That he was called up this morning at 6.30 by the hospital porter, who informed him that a patient named Hession had escaped from the hospital about 5 o'clock; that he proceeded at once to the hospital, and there ascertained that this patient, who had been on Saturday last admitted, succeeded in effecting his escape through a window on the ground floor and made his way to the clothes store, dressed himself, and proceeded to his father's house in Athenry."

I visited the hospital and fully inquired into the matter; I cannot attach blame to any of the parties in charge. The windows should be secured.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie.*

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— No. 85. —

(No. 14,091—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
6 July 1875.

Sir,

ADVERTING to previous correspondence on the subject, the Local Government Board for Ireland forward herewith, for the information of their Excellencies the Lords Justices, extracts from a report received from their inspector, Dr. Brodie, relating to the outbreak of small-pox in the town of Athenry.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *B. Banks*, Secretary.

To T. H. Burke, Esq., &c. &c.
Dublin Castle.

— No. 86. —

(No. 14,091—75.)

LETTER from the Local Government Board to Dr. *Brodie*.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
7 July 1875.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your report dated the 4th instant, relating to the outbreak of small-pox in Athenry.

By Order of the Board,
(signed) *W. D. Wodsworth*,
Assistant Secretary.

To Dr. Brodie, Inspector, Galway.

— No. 87. —

(No. 14,780—75.)

REPORT from Dr. *Brodie* to the Local Government Board.

Galway, 14 July 1875.

Gentlemen,

ADVERTING to former reports on the subject of the outbreak of small-pox in Athenry, I beg to append copy of a communication received by me this afternoon from Dr. Leonard.

I have, &c.
(signed) *T. Brodie*.

To the Local Government Board, Dublin.

Athenry, 13 July 1875.

Dear Sir,

EVERY house in Athenry where small-pox appeared has on this day been thoroughly disinfected by sanitary sub-officer Glyn, under my immediate supervision. The disinfectants used were chloride of lime, carbolic acid, and Condy's fluid.

I discharged from hospital 13 patients. I visited the patients near Moyode, as also the girl on the Castle Lambert-road to-day, and I am happy to inform you that all are progressing favourably. I had the boy, M'Grath, that I visited with you on yesterday, removed to hospital last evening. There is no fresh case since your visit to hospital on Monday, where we have now only 16 patients, of whom 11 are convalescent; three out of danger; and two still doubtful; though progressing favourably. It is a salutary change, and leaves me to hope that small-pox has run its course in my afflicted district.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *H. Leonard*.

To Dr. Brodie, Local Government Inspector.

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SMALL POX (ATHENRY).

COPIES of CORRESPONDENCE between the Local Government Board and its Inspector with regard to the present Epidemic of SMALL-POX at *Athenry*; and, of CORRESPONDENCE between the Local Government Board and any Poor Law Unions with regard to the same outbreak of SMALL-POX.

(*Captain Nolan.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
13 *August* 1875.

422.

Under 6 *oz.*

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